

positions of carbon carried from one electrode to the other. Professor Silliman had at that time sent Dr. Hare several nodules for examination, of which none, agreeably to his recollection, appeared so much like products of fusion as those lately obtained.

Formerly, plumbago had been considered as a carburet of iron, but latterly, agreeably to the high authority of Berzelius, should be viewed as carbon holding iron in a state of mixture, and not in that of chemical combination. It would not then be surprising, if the globules in question furnished an instance of the conversion of charcoal into plumbago.

Since the abovementioned experiments were made, Dr. Hare has had reason to believe that the compound obtained as above described, by heating lime with bicyanide of mercury, contains fulminic acid, or an analogous substance. The compound being dissolved in acetic acid, and the filtered solution subjected to nitrate of mercury, a copious white precipitate resulted. This being desiccated, proves to be a fulminating powder. It explodes between a hammer and anvil like fulminating mercury, or rather with the sharp sound of fulminating silver.

Dr. Hays made a verbal communication of a case of the application of the catoptric method of examining the eye, by which he had detected the destruction of the lens and of its capsule, under circumstances which would not otherwise have led to the conclusion that they had been destroyed, and where vision had been obtained by the use of a cataract lens.

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*Stated Meeting, June 21.*

Present, twenty-four members.

Mr. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

The following donations were received:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Proceedings of the Royal Astronomical Society. Vol. IV. Nos. 1 to 21, and No. 23. London, 1839.—*From the Society.*

- Reports of the Geological Survey of the State of New York. Albany, 1839.—*From Mr. Z. Barton Stout.*
- Notice Historique sur la Vie et les Voyages de René Caillié. Par M. Jomard. Paris, 1839.—*From the Author.*
- Remarks upon the North American Insects belonging to the Genus *Cychnus* of Fabricius; with descriptions of some newly detected species. By T. W. Harris, M. D. Boston, 1839.—*From the Author.*
- Political Sketches of Eight Years in Washington. By Robert Mayo, M. D. Baltimore, 1839.—*From the Author.*
- Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania. From the Organization to the Termination of the Proprietary Government. Vols. I. and II., containing the Proceedings of Council from 1683 to 1717. Harrisburg, 1838.—*From the State of Pennsylvania.*
- Die Werke des Flavius Josephus und Das Leben des Josephus von ihm selbst geschrieben. Das Ganze von Neuem nach dem Griechischen bearbeitet; mit erklärenden Anmerkungen, durch C. R. Demme. Philadelphia, 1839.—*From the Editor.*
- Annales des Mines. Troisième Série. Vol. XIV., parts fourth and sixth. Paris, 1838.—*From the Council of Mines.*
- Storia della Scultura del Conte Cicognara. Vols. I. to VII. Prato, 1824.—*From Mr. John Vaughan.*
- Recherches sur l'Histoire Naturelle et l'Anatomie des Limules, par J. Van Der Hoeven. Leyden, 1838.—*From the Minister of the Interior of the Netherlands.*
- Flora Batava, of afbeelding en beschrijving van Nederlandsche Gewassen, door Jan Kops, en H. C. Van Hall. Nos. 116 and 117. Amsterdam.—*From the same.*
- Essay on Meteorological Observations. By J. N. Nicollet, Esq. Printed by order of the War Department. Washington, 1839.—*From Col. Abert, U. S. Topographical Engineers.*
- Les Trois Ages ou les Jeux Olympiques, l'Amphithéâtre, et la Chevalerie. Par Roux de Rochelle. Paris, 1838.—*From the Author.*
- Fernand Cortès, Poëme. Par Roux de Rochelle. Paris, 1838.—*From the same.*
- Chinese Magazine, edited by the Rev. Charles Guzloff. Canton.—*From the Editor.*
- Missionary Tracts in Chinese. Canton.—*From the same.*

- Bulletin de la Société de Géographie. Deuxième Série. Vol. X. Paris, 1838.—*From the Society.*
- The Oxford University Calendar. Oxford, 1838.—*From Mr. John Vaughan.*
- The Cambridge University Calendar. Cambridge, 1838.—*From the same.*
- Memorie e Lettere di Galileo Galilei, dal Cav. Giambattista Venturi. Vols. I. and II. Modena, 1821.—*From the same.*
- An Inquiry into the Origin of the Antiquities of America. By John Delafield, Jr., with an Appendix, by James Lakey, M. D. of Ohio. New York, 1839.—*From Mr. M. T. Williams.*

The librarian was authorized to take order in relation to an exchange of the transactions of the Society, for the Journal of the Boston Natural Historical Society.

The committee on the letters of Mr. J. P. Hulliken and Dr. Townsend reported, and was discharged.

The committee to whom was referred the publication of certain meteorological tables, accidentally omitted in their place in the Transactions, and the journal of Dr. Thomas Hewson, reported in favour of the publication of certain of the former and of the latter.

Dr. Bache presented a translation of an obituary notice of Professor Rask of Copenhagen, late a member of the Society, to be deposited in the archives of the Society.

Mr. Vaughan informed the Society of the decease of Doctor Thomas Cooper, a member of the Society, who died on the eleventh of May last.

Dr. Hays communicated verbally the case of a woman labouring under an affection of the optic nerve, in which a defect in the recognition of colours was developed, according to her statement, at the same time with the affection of the general vision, and in which a partial recovery of the power of vision had been attended with the recovery of the power to distinguish colours.

Dr. Hare laid before the Society portions of barium, strontium and calcium, and stated the considerations which led him to attempt their extrication, and the means by which he had

succeeded. These communications it is not deemed expedient to insert, as the whole process will soon be presented for publication in the Transactions of the Society, when an abstract will be given. Meanwhile, a notice of the results will appear in Silliman's Journal.

One of the copies of the Colonial Records, presented to the Society by the Legislature of the State, was offered to the acceptance of the President, Mr. Du Ponceau.

The thanks of the Society were returned to Mr. George Ord, for his attention to their request in relation to the purchase of books while abroad.

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*Stated Meeting, July 17.*

Present, twenty-two members.

Mr. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

The following donations were received:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Proceedings of the Geological Society of London. Vol. II. and Vol. III. Nos. 59 to 62 inclusive. London, 1838 and 1839.

*From the Society.*

Proceedings of the Numismatic Society. 1836–37. London, 1837.

*From the Society.*

The Institutes of the Numismatic Society of London. London, 1838.

*From the same.*

A Discourse on the Life and Services of Stephen Van Rensselaer.

By Daniel D. Barnard. Albany, 1839.—*From the Albany Institute.*

Mémoires de la Société Royale des Antiquaires de France. Vol. XIV. Paris, 1838.—*From the Society.*

Tijdschrift voor Natuurlijke Geschiedenis en Physiologie. Uitgegeven door J. Van der Hoeven, M. D. Prof. te Leiden en W. H. de Vriese, M. D. Prof. te Amsterdam. Vol. V. No. 4. Leyden, 1839.—*From the Minister of the Interior of the Netherlands.*